

Current

The Remarkable Resources of Mysterious AFRICA Have Never Been Scratched, Says Ida Vera Simonton, the Intrepid Explorer— Opportunities for Americans Are Tremendous, but She Warns of Bloodshed When the Black Man, Schooled in Modern Warfare, Returns From the Trenches

Atlanta Constitution

AFRICA will never be populated by the white race. Along the northern and southern extremities of the continent the climate permits of white colonization. Elsewhere the heat and humidity are an absolute guarantee that the least known area in the world will always be the paradise of the blacks."

Miss Ida Vera Simonton, the intrepid girl explorer who has traveled the dim trails of Stanley and Du Chaillu, and who has struck off for herself in the impenetrable Congo jungles, hacking her way through places white men have never traveled, is an accepted authority on the black continent.

Her apartment on West Fifteenth street, New York City, resembles a museum. Standing on a little teak table in the center of the room is a hideous two-headed image, covered with tanned human skin. All around the walls are spears and lances and African tomtoms, interspersed with snake skins, woven Mohammedan prayer mats from the Niger and native night torches from the Upper Congo.

"I wanted to open direct trade routes," she declared, in answer to a query as to why she had ever undertaken African exploration. "I have been interested in the dark continent since I was a child, and it occurred to me that one might still play the part of a Cecil Rhodes to the great untouched heart of Africa stretching along the west coast from Senegal to Angola and back into the interior to Lake Victoria Nyanza.

"I found a country fabulously rich in the finest hard woods in the world, hundreds of species of which are not even listed in botanical libraries. I found a country where for the mere matter of American ships and American leaf tobacco we might command the ivory, rubber and mineral wealth of an area vaster than the whole United States. The resources of Africa have never been scratched, comparatively speaking.

"Some day—after this war—American initiative and enterprise are going to demand their fair share of trade with the country of the Niger and the Congo. American leaf tobacco is the standard medium of exchange for this whole territory, a



fact that will surprise millions of Americans who have hardly been aware of the existence of either of these wonderful streams.

"The old territorial restrictions, whereby the colonizing country jealously demanded that the products for its colonies in Africa be trans-shipped from home ports, will disappear. When it does in the matter of African trade America will assuredly be the child of destiny."

Miss Simonton, the only woman who has ever commanded Senegalese troops, declares that the conclusion of the present world war will see inaugurated in Africa a series of tribal wars and guerrilla warfare against whites hitherto unequalled in bloodshed.

"The black is essentially a child," says Miss Simonton. "He possesses a low order of cunning and a great degree of savage vindictiveness, commanding tremendous disadvantages in his residence in Africa. childlike pride and egotism. This factor will impel him to scorn the whites while standing in the children to Europe or America. They can awe of their strange mechanisms and firearms. But I have no doubt that a little propaganda work by the more crafty chiefs, coupled with the moral support of guns in their own hands, can kindle an anti-white spirit as abrupt and startling in its manifestations as the famous 'Messiah craze' of the American Indians of the early nineties.

"When this happens the outposts of the daring white traders and government officials will face a situation of utmost peril. The most sanguinary chapters in African history are not those of the past; they are what we may expect when the superficially sophisticated blacks, educated to warfare in the trenches of Europe, return home with the secret discontent still lurking in their hearts.

Affronts to native pride have been matters of daily occurrence for centuries. It is a peculiar sort of pride. The use of the 'sjambok' or 'chicotte' upon his bare back does not linger in his memory as anything requiring expiation in blood. They are used to the whip. I have seen Congo blacks flog their wives with these terrible raw hippo hide lashes until the poor creatures' ribs protruded through the lacerated skin. That is a matter of course.

"But for despoiling him of his lands, cheating him in trade, taking their pick of his women, and arrogating the old tribal power and authority to themselves the white men are never forgiven. The negro doesn't stand in awe of the white men and is not seeking to be 'uplifted.'

"The countless numbers of missionaries laboring in Africa will probably take issue with me. But I have seen five years of the workings of the attempts to Christianize and civilize the blacks. The most successful missionary work is being done by the Mohammedans.

"Their sensual concept of paradise is something the jungle-dwelling Kuru or Congo black can understand. And the Mohammedan doctrine of sobriety is the one thing in any faith which seems to have actually aided the natives. Where Mohammedanism has been introduced there is no drinking of 'trade rum,' the most villainous concoction of fusil oil and alcohol ever devised.

"Senegalese tribesmen are Mohammedan fanatics, and what may happen on the west coast of Africa if a successful religious war is ever preached there is best left to the imagination.

"After the great world war Africa will be the

true commercial battle ground of the world. It is the one section of the earth really remaining unexploited. The world must go there for its woods, ivory and much of its rubber.

"American tobacco will really give us the first call on exports when the old 'trans-shipping' barrier is finally broken down.

"To the young men of the present day I would say, 'Study African trade, African products, African trade routes.' Men who know Africa will be commanding tremendous salaries a decade or so hence. It is the last real frontier. It is the one place where surprises and discoveries still await the questing spirit of man. It is the world's ultimate—and greatest—natural treasure house.

"But there are a variety of complicating circumstances. The white man must always labor under and a great degree of savage vindictiveness, tremendous disadvantages in his residence in Africa. childlike pride and egotism. This factor will impel him to scorn the whites while standing in the children to Europe or America. They can awe of their strange mechanisms and firearms. But I have no doubt that a little propaganda work and physical stamina disappear before the fearful heat and terrible, steaming humidity.

"It isn't only the remittance and ticket-of-leave men with a 'billet in the bush' who go wrong. The dim trails are full of the strange wrecks of white men who have ventured too far into the interior or who have tarried too long beneath the vertical rays of the jungle sun. I remember one classic example. His beard trailed almost to his knees and his hair hung down his back like a woman's. He was burned a dull russet color, and only for his features and straight hair he might almost have passed as a native.

"His last clothing had rotted away and he wore only a native breech clout. He tried to talk to me in English, but stuttered and mumbled the broken, rusty words. Finally he relapsed into the native tongue. He had been in the country twenty-six years. He had lost all hope of ever leaving, and the desire to see England again was dead. Even the native women held him in utter contempt. It was the most loathsome living death I have ever looked upon.

"This tendency to revert to the primitive begins to pull with an awful insistent urge like gravity as soon as one enters the 'bush.' One's normal perspective seems destroyed by the steaming wall of matted jungle vegetation constantly before one's eyes. The white soon loses his former sense of relative values. That is why moral conditions are so—well, queer—even among many of the missionaries. For this the offender is hardly responsible.

"The conditions under which one must live are almost unbearable. There is the tremendous heat—often 120 degrees—coupled with a terrible humidity. It rains, too, almost eight months in the year in the Congo Valley. Everything becomes a terrible morass. And between torrents of rain the sun comes out again, vertical and terrible, to make the whole fecund mass of trees and creepers and black mud boil and steam with poisonous fumes.

"Whisky becomes a regular beverage. Canned goods are a staple of diet. One's head rings constantly with quinine—to date at least science's only defensive against the ravages of fever. What won-

jaundiced eyes of the isolated white, suddenly take on the charm of hours!

"What wonder that the trader or explorer drinks too much and thinks too little?

"Friends of mine will exclaim, 'But when science has cleaned it up as American medical men cleaned up Panama?' There is, as a matter of fact, no parallel whatever. Imagine, for example, the time and money that would have to be expended to apply the 'Panama treatment' to a jungle vaster than the whole United States! And that is one of the last real frontier. It is the one place phase of the matter only.

"Science has never controlled heat nor rainfall. These are the two real malaria-making agencies. We can cut the wonderful big trees of the African jungles and cart them to the coast. We can go through the motions of educating the blacks. We can clear land and put up corrugated tin cities. But we can never control that frightful vertical heat or the mud-churning, fever-brewing eight months of rain. Africa is the permanent paradise of the black man. We'll never pre-empt him as we have pre-empted the American Indian."

AFRICA'S FIRST METHODIST HOSPITAL

Of more than average interest is the news that the long-dreamed-of hospital for Inhambane, Portuguese East Africa, is becoming a reality.

The Board of Foreign Missions has recently received from District Superintendent W. C. Terril a sketch of this new building and a letter dated October 25, 1916, telling how far the work was advanced at that time. It is to be a stone structure forty feet long, twenty wide, and twenty-one feet high. There are to be four spacious rooms on each of the two floors, six single doors and two double ones; with fifteen very large windows to give plenty of light and good ventilation and a ten foot veranda will extend all around the building.

We have in hand all the stone required, about one-fourth of the lime needed, the windows and doors, sufficient cement for both foundation and pillars. Our Inhambane saw mill is to furnish \$500 worth of lumber.

The masons have nearly finished their work on the ground floor. The walls are about eight feet high, and the foundations for the veranda are already laid. Practically all the first floor doors and windows are in. So the hospital is growing daily. And what a great work it is to do!

Are there not friends in America who would like to have a share in building Methodism's first hospital in Africa?

LINES WITHIN LINES.

The vagaries and peculiar outcroppings of racial prejudices are unexpected and at times unaccountable. One of the most peculiar of these manifestations is furnished by an article in the Native Opinion, published at Kingwilliamtown, South Africa.

According to newspaper report, some individual wrote to the Rhodesia school committee, drawing attention to the fact that the colored school in Salisbury had natives attending it. The chairman of the school board stated that the Government had opened the school for colored children, and the parents complained that the school was being used for natives.

A report upon the matter being asked from the secretary, that functionary reported that the Director of Education held that "colored parents had just as much right to object to natives attending the school as white people had if colored children attended a school for white children."

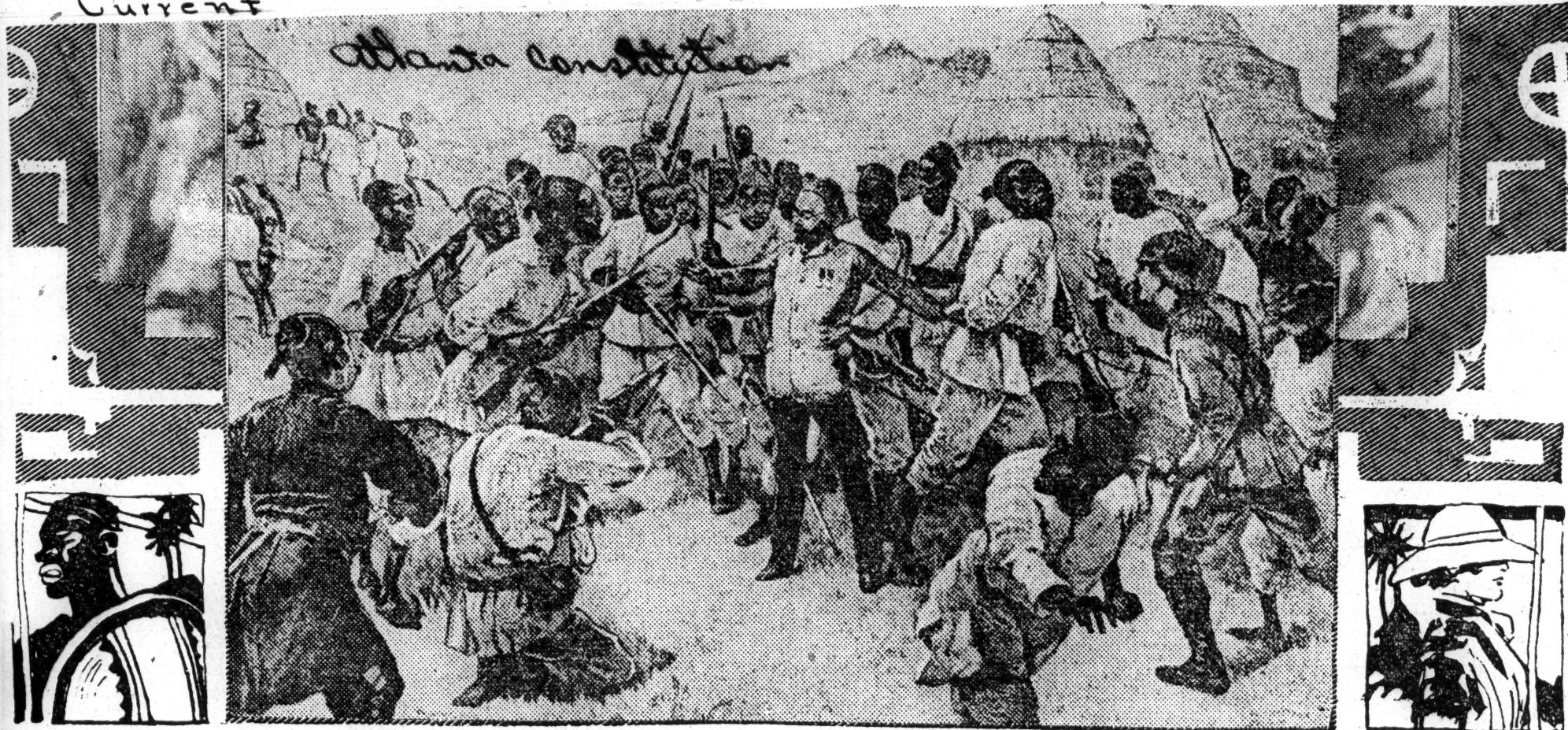
No specific ground appeared to have been made for the complain

nor any definite case put before the department. But the exhibition has been made of interracial discrimination and the authorities promptly availed themselves of opportunity to justify discrimination against the race as a whole, colored and native alike.

The Native Opinion deplores the pity of this exhibition, which it regards as a sign that South Africa is destined to be torn to pieces by racial prejudices. The suicidal folly of this drawing of lines within lines under British auspices should not be without its lesson for the race in this country.

It has been said that a nation divided against itself cannot stand. Neither can any race or people.

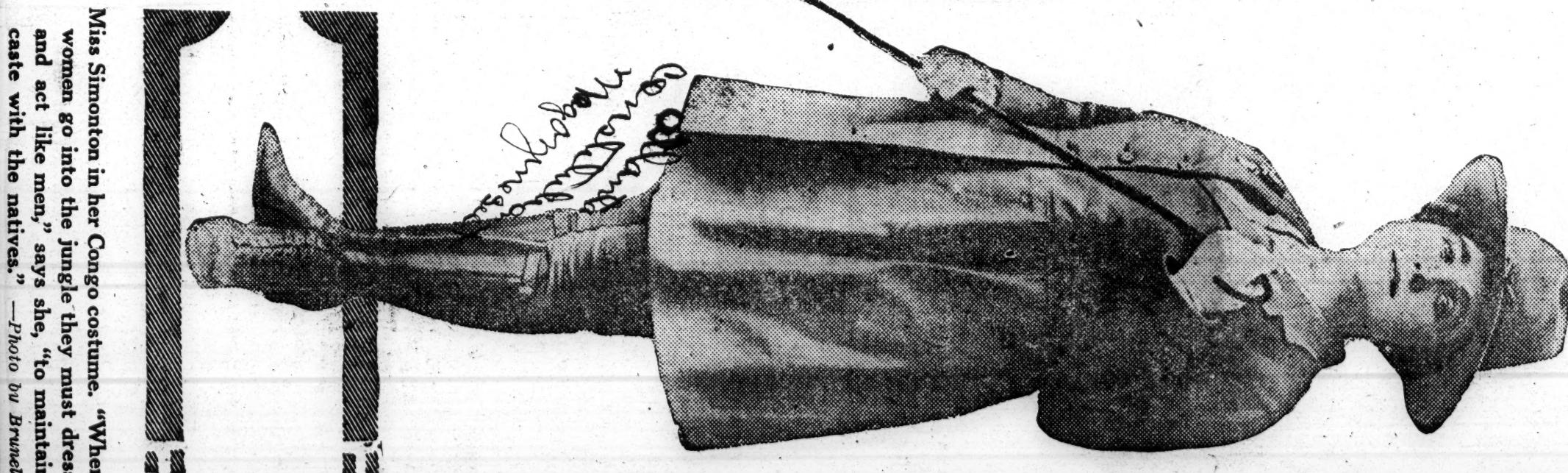
Current



Mutiny of native soldiers at Labore against the relief expedition sent out by Henry M. Stanley to aid Emin Pasha and conducted by Mounteney-Jephson; a picture which typifies the hatred of the average African Black for the White Man.

Reproduced from "Emin Pasha and the Rebellion at the Equator," by Mounteney-Jephson, and copyrighted by Charles Scribner's Sons.

Above is Miss Ida Vera Simonton, the girl explorer, who has penetrated portions of the Congo Valley that no other white person has visited. The strange idol is covered with human skin.



Miss Simonton in her Congo costume. "When women go into the jungle they must dress and act like men," says she, "to maintain caste with the natives." —Photo by Brunel.

AFRICAN IS ADMITTED TO CATHOLIC ORDERS

For the first time in the history of the Catholic Church, in Lagos, West Africa, a black man has been ordained to Catholic orders. Paul Obodoecie Emecete, a native of Nigeria, having been admitted to the Minor Orders of the priesthood Sunday January 14, of this year. The Right Rev. Bishop Terrien officiated in the presence of a large congregation, consisting of Catholics, Protestants and Pagans. Nearly all the

Ibo-speaking people who are residents of Lagos were present.

The mass was said by Bishop Terrien, assisted by the Rev. Father Arial as arch-deacon; the Rev. Father Schmidt as assistant priest and the Rev. Father S. Woodley as master of ceremonies.

The young cleric is one of a family of thirteen and was born at Ezi in the District of Asaba on the Niger in 1889. He should have been admitted to the minor Orders some time ago, but the superior of his mission, wishing to have his integrity fully tested, asked him to undergo a long probation, which he underwent without murmur.

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Miss Simonton in her Congo costume. "When women go into the jungle they must dress and act like men," says she, "to maintain caste with the natives." —Photo by Brunel.



AMERICAN NEGROES PREFER U. S. A.

No Desire to Return to Africa.—Bishop Beckett on the Order of Ethiopia.

The Christian Recorder

"No, sir; you could not pull the colored people out of the United States with a hawser," was the reply of Bishop Beckett to a question by a Cape Times representative whether there was any desire on the part of the Negro population of the United States to return to Africa.

Bishop William Wesley Beckett, who is a Negro citizen of the United States, arrived from England by the Galway Castle to undertake the duties of bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Union of South Africa.

"We are as well treated as we could expect to be," proceeded the bishop. "We have property, colleges and universities, and our people are buying up land."

"Then the Negroes have no ground of complaint regarding their treatment in the United States?"

"None whatever; and our people here in Cape Town have never had any cause of complaint."

Replying to a question regarding lynch law in the States, the bishop remarked that that applied to both races, and Americans—given the justification—would lynch a white man just as quickly as they would lynch a Negro. Lynching was murder—that was all it was—and white people were getting ashamed of it more and more. In proof of his statement that the Negro population of the United States was respected, he mentioned that he had traveled all over the United States and had never been insulted by a white man. The Europeans showed the greatest respect to Negro ministers.

The South Preferred to the North

"Does that apply in the South as well as in the North?"

"It does. I wish it to be known that our opportunities in the South are better than in the North—our material opportunities are infinitely better in the Southern States than in the Northern States."

"Why is that?"

"Because a man can get a better start in the South, where more land is available. The pay is greater in the North, but as our people are not as numerous there as they are in the South, a Negro physician or lawyer would not get the same amount of patronage in the North as he would in the South."

"What is the present Negro population of the United States?"

"At the close of the Civil War in 1865 there were three and one-half million Negroes in the United States, but to-day we number over 15 millions."

"While your people would be reluctant to leave the States, I suppose the white population would be equally reluctant to see you go?"

"Certainly. I will give you an instance that recently occurred. Be-

fore the present war began the great railway companies in the Northern States used to import foreign labor, of such a body. Our movement has

specially Italians. But the war stopped that, so the Northern railway movement, of which I never heard

companies sent agents to the South until I got here. Our Church is

white residents of the Southern States were so much opposed to that

step that they had the labor agents arrested, the recruiting of Negro la-

bors in the South for work in the

North being illegal."

The Negro and the Franchise

"What is the position of the Negro in regard to the franchise?"

"We have in the Southern States a

property and an intellectual qualifi-

cation. For instance, in my State—

South Carolina—the property quali-

cation is the ownership of \$350 worth of real estate and personal

property and the ability to read cor-

"In certain quarters there is a ten-

rely the Constitutions of the State

and of the United States. That is actuated in many respects by

pretty much the qualification of all

the Southern States. But a great

many Negroes do not try to vote."

"Why?"

"The Negro is leaving politics. The

Church—as one of the bishops of

selections are never carried out fair

the Church; Our body has never been

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"A. M. E. Church Not Political

"I will answer as an authority of

Edward Leacroft, has had wide mis-

ionsary experience.

CORONATION MADE HOLIDAY

ADIS ABEBA, ABYSSINIA, April 29.

The coronation of the new empress of Abyssinia, Zeodito, was marked by a week's holiday for everybody in the country. It was particularly an occasion of rejoicing for those who owed the government a good-sized tax bill, day edict, exempted all taxpayers from arrears and pardoned all criminals who were still at large.

Y C B R S H

SEPTEMBER 21, 1917

COURSE IN ANTHROPOLOGY.

African Negro Subject of Columbia Study.

Persons engaged in missionary work and students of the subject will be interested to know that a special course in anthropology, applying especially to Africa, will be given at Columbia University during the winter session.

Agnes C. L. Donohugh, A. M., is the instructor in this course, which is designed to be a careful survey of the racial characteristics and manners and customs of the African negro. Mrs

Donohugh, who is the daughter of J.

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"SOUTHERN NIGERIA'S COAL.

The following is an extract from the "Financier": "One of the

most important results obtained in

the course of the survey of southern

Nigeria was the discovery of depo-

sits of lignite and coal on both sides

of the River Niger near Asaba, and

more especially the discovery of the

Udi-Okwoga coalfield, so called after

the names of the native villages at

its known southerly and northerly

limits. Its total area as hitherto

determined is about 1,800 square

miles. The Government of Nigeria

being at present the chief consumer

of coal in the country for the use of

its railways, the development of the

coalfield has been undertaken by the

Public Works Department, and a

railway has been built to connect it

with Port Harcourt."

One of the Senegalese troopers that Miss Simonton commanded on her daring expedition. "These soldiers," the intrepid girl says, "some day will make the bush run red with white blood."

Current

In Route to the Mandingo. Readers of the Southern Workman may remember that in the issue for December 1916, there

appeared an editorial giving an account of the formation of the Mandingo Development Corporation for the organization of Christian business enterprises in the interior of the Guinea district of West Africa. The Corporation was the result of the influence of Mr. M. R. Hilford, an African missionary, whose experience among the natives had inspired him to seek practical help in this country for the ten million Mandingoes in this part of Africa.

Swilhelm Workers

Mr. Hilford, who was authorized to go back to Africa and start a plantation and cattle ranch to make the natives self-supporting, began his perilous journey in April last. He writes as follows from the northwest coast of Africa:

"At 5:15 this afternoon (May 13) we sighted the shores of Africa once more, and were thankful that we had been brought thus far safely on our way. We are aboard the Spanish ship *Santa Isabel*, having sailed from Cadiz on the seventh. The trip from New York to Bordeaux was pleasant and the last day was exciting as well. When thirty miles from shore off Bordeaux we were attacked by a German submarine, but fortunately they missed us, the torpedo going directly under our stern; we were safe by about ten feet. Mrs. Hilford among others saw the torpedo pass. Our stern gun fired about ten shots at the submarine, but whether they took effect or not is uncertain."

"This place (Rio de Oro) appears to be the most forlorn spot I have ever seen—not a green thing that can be seen from the boat, the Atlantic on one side, and the great sea of sand, the Sahara, on the other. The people all seem to be of Moorish descent."

"In the Islands we learned that Liberia had severed relations with Germany, and this ought to facilitate our purchase of palm oil in that country. On board this ship is Major Anderson, recently retired from the United States Army, who has accepted a commission as Major in the Liberian Army, having been selected by our State Department as one qualified to help the Liberian frontier forces to get on their feet."

"The next stop this boat makes is Monrovia, and we may be there four or five weeks before an opportunity presents itself for us to get back to Freetown."

Editorial News

SEPTEMBER 12, 1917

BOSTON RUM FOR

WEST AFRICA

A dispatch from Boston tells of the chartering of a schooner to carry

a cargo of rum to the West Coast of Africa, the charter rate being \$80,000, somewhat more than the vessel cost to build. "The incident," says a well known journal, "recalls the good old days when Boston made its first big money trading in rum and 'Negroes.' The hardy Boston traders brought sugar from Jamaica to Boston. They made this sugar into rum, and carried the rum to the West Coast of Africa. They exchanged the rum for droves of slaves, brought to the coast from the interior. They put the slaves below and carried them to Jamaica, to be traded for more sugar, to be made into more rum, to be exchanged for more slaves. Many an early Boston for-

traders were transporting to America with so much profit, the English tract of land situated at an imaginary line somewhere in the world called the Equator, but which is studded with thick forests, elephants and tailed dark imps called Negroes or darkies."

Even after 1808, when trade in new slaves brought from Africa became illegal in the United States, smuggling continued. Stephen A. Douglas declared in a public speech that he believed that 15,000 Negro slaves were smuggled into this country in the single year of 1850—a manifest exaggeration of a difficult and very risky business. It is on record, however, that in 1858 about 175 Negroes from the Congo were smuggled into Alabama and 750 into Georgia. The famous slaver "Wanderer" also landed 600 Congo blacks on the Georgia coast in 1859. The importations received by Georgia in those two years were sent up the Satilla and Savannah rivers and scattered over the State, bringing from \$600 to \$700 a head, although they had cost the traders only a few beads and bright cotton cloths. As they were all young, between twelve and twenty-odd years of age, undoubtedly at least a few of them still live—thus connecting the Negro problem far less remotely with aboriginal savagery than is generally supposed.

An interesting reminder of all this is furnished by the news of the carrying of rum from Boston to the West Coast of Africa so long after the ending of the slave trade with which the rum business was once intimately associated. It is as legal now to export rum to Africa as it once was to import slaves therefrom, but morally such a business can hardly be described as above reproach, the intelligent modern public recognizing that the savage is better off without strong drink and some government making laws accordingly. As for "the West African taste for Boston rum," no doubt it still persists a lively existence. It is said that in the French Congo the natives will even sell their sacred groves for liquor and such are their abnormal cravings that they eat salt by the handful.

WOES AND BABBLING O. TONGUES

Africa also has woes. One of its publications, *The Lagos Weekly Record*, had the following to say among other things, in one of its recent numbers:

Time was when it was the fashionable thing with most European writers and journals to paint the inhabitants of this so-called benighted continent of Africa as black as ever in body, heart and soul. Scarcely a week passed without some humorous caricature of some shipwrecked mariner or adventurous explorer finding himself or country and devising some ingenious means of escape which more or less ended in his final outwitting of the "dusky cannibals."

Equally persistent is the exploitation of the fertile and exuberant imagination of extreme caricaturists who do not know whether Africa is situated in the North or South Pole, who have never breathed the prolific air of Africa's sunny clime and whose knowledge

is removed. Consul-General Hall writes:

The reforms which the Portuguese have carried out since 1908 are so great that I think it may, without exaggeration, be said that a revolution has been effected. There seems no reason to doubt that the methods of recruitment are free from objection. The conditions under which the laborers live and improving. There is not only no evidence to show that fraud or violence or other illegal methods are used to secure renewal of contracts, but there is evidence tending directly to show that the laborers are left perfectly free to choose whether to recontract or not; the proceedings, moreover, are open to the public and are advertised beforehand.

Finally, the fact of continuous repatriation to Angola, as well as Mozambique and elsewhere, is patent to every person who comes to these shores.

The principal reason for this improvement, both in methods of recruiting and conditions of work, apparently is the fact that by means of a bonus paid in a lump sum at the end of the contract, the laborer is enabled to return to his home community in comparative affluence and that, hence, the flow of labor has become more than sufficient and made any mode of coercion entirely superfluous even from the most brutal considerations of exploitation.

The effectiveness of the protests made five years ago is shown by the endeavor of planters to improve living conditions our East St. Louis horror, perhaps for contract laborers. Even though the he would have given another very interesting chapter. But as it is he seems to know enough to doubt that may be somewhat influenced by political motives, and although, of course, every particular people.

form of contract labor under white mas-

ters delays the progress of the more

backward races, the facts stated in this

publication would seem to indicate that

a really substantial betterment in every

respect has taken place.

FORMER QUARTER-MASTER SERGEANT PROMOTED TO MAJOR-GENERAL OF LIBERIA.

John A. Anderson, a Retired Old Guard of the Famous Twenty-Fifth U. S. A., Succeeds Colonel Young.

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Guard of the Famous Twenty-

Fifth U. S. A., Succeeds

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The African & Orient Review

MR. CLAUD ENNIN.
We are glad to report that Mr. Claud Ennin has returned in safety to his native home on the Gold Coast, where he has been appointed to represent Messrs. Jules Karpelés, of London, India, and America. Mr. Ennin, who spent the best part of a year in England improving his commercial knowledge, should prove, by reason of his industry and high integrity, both a credit to his family and a valuable commercial asset to his people. He was placed under our guardianship by



MR. CLAUD ENNIN.

his brother-in-law, the Omanhene of Anamabu, and the editor's personal observation leads him to the conclusion that in the near future Mr. Ennin must take a prominent place in the commercial activities of West Africa. He is young, but worthy, and we wish him every success in his present and future labours.

We sincerely regret to learn that Mr. Ennin's elder brother met with a tragic death almost concurrent with his return to the Coast, thus marring an otherwise happy family reunion. We tender our heartfelt sympathy to the deceased gentleman's relatives.

Students in London.

The African Students Union.

A Union of African Students in England has been formed in London.

The object of the Union is primarily Social, and aims at bringing together all Africans in *status pupillaris* resident in England, and thus to provide a crying need.

The Officials as elected at a General Meeting held on the 23rd December, 1916, are :—

President : E. S. BEOKU BETTS, M.A., B.C.L., from Sierra Leone.

Vice-President : Vacant.

Secretary : K. A. KEISAH, B.A., from Winnebah, Gold Coast.

Assistant Secretary : T. MENSAH-ANNAU, from Accra, Gold Coast.

Financial Secretary : C. AWOONOR RENNER, from Sierra Leone and Cape Coast.

Treasurer : S. EDDUH ATTAKORA, from Aquapine, Gold Coast.

The Secretary will be pleased to convey any further information to Africans desirous of becoming members on receipt of a letter to that effect, addressed (by the kind courtesy of the Editor) to 158. Fleet Street, E.C.

Plans to Develop South Africa

Western Christian Advocate

Plans are now being made for developments in South Africa on an enormous scale after the war, says a London dispatch, particularly as regards the export of food. It has been confidently predicted that so far as meat is concerned the promoters in South Africa will be in a position to compete very soon with any part of the world, and in order to assist the expansion of the industry all steamship lines propose, it is understood, to increase the refrigerated space very considerably and to place more vessels in service. The plan contemplates also the giving of special attention to the cultivation of tobacco, which has been grown in South Africa from the best seed for nearly 100 years.

Those engaged in the industry have had of late the benefit of expert advice from the United States and Turkey, and planters are said to be very hopeful of the future.

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West African Journals.

African Times. 4/17.

SIERRA LEONE.

The Colonial and Provincial Reporter.

Weekly, Saturday. Edited by T. J. Thompson, 30, Charlotte Street, Freetown. Subscription, 10/- per annum (local); 15/- per annum (foreign).

Sierra Leone Weekly News.

Weekly, Saturday. Edited by C. May, Oxford Street, Freetown. Subscription, 15/- per annum.

GOLD COAST.

Gold Coast Leader.

Weekly, Saturday ... Elimina Road, Cape Coast. Subscription, 10/- per annum (local); 14/- per annum (foreign).

Gold Coast Nation.

Weekly, Thursday. Official Organ of the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society, 2, Chapel Square, Cape Coast. Subscription, 10/- per annum (local); 12/- per annum (foreign).

LAGOS.

Lagos Standard.

Weekly, Wednesday. Edited by G. A. Williams, Broad Street, Lagos. Subscription, 15/- per annum.

Lagos Weekly Record.

Weekly, Saturday. Edited by John P. Jackson, Samadu's Quarters, Kimberley, Marina, Lagos. Annual Subscription, 15/-.

WEST AFRICAN LANDS.

By CASELY HAYFORD.

Published by Mr. C. M. Phillips, 14, Portugal Street, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C. 4/- net. Now on Sale. Can be obtained by order through AFRICAN TIMES AND ORIENT REVIEW.

The special anniversary number of the "AFRICAN TIMES AND ORIENT REVIEW" reached the editor's desk sometime ago. We are pleased to call it to the attention of our readers. This periodical which is published monthly in London, England, is an inter-national organ for the darker peoples of the earth, especially those of Africa and India who are subjects of Great Britain. This Review fills an important place in the journalistic efforts of the darker peoples to set forth their progress and aspirations. Among the important things discussed in this particular number is, that the natives of Africa and India should have representation in the Council, which, in due course, at the close of the present world war, will meet to decide the terms of peace. Other important articles are, "Empire Development or Empire Plunder?"; "Egyptian and Indian Settlement"; "A Patriotic Recruiting Appeal to South African Natives" and "Education in British West Africa."

EDUCATION IN BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

BY KOBINA SEKYI.

I.

Education, like civilisation, is a term that has almost lost its proper meaning. Borrowed long ago from the Latin, but specialised almost out of connection with its root, it has now come in its ordinary, everyday use to signify knowledge of letters. In this sense education is familiar to us in British West Africa; and since the first teachers of "education" to our people were Europeans, the idea has come, apparently, to stay in the minds of those native to West Africa, that "education" as such is essentially European—one of the many refined and refining incidents of contact with Europe. Accordingly, those of us who have been "educated" grew up with the impression that the fisher-folk and the farmer-folk, for example, being unlettered, were uneducated. In time we got accustomed to confusing illiteracy with uneducation; and, since the "educated" were distinguished, by their adoption of European garb, from the uneducated, we got further and further involved in confusion, till now the general impression is that the native in European dress is educated—a "scholar," as he is popularly called—and the native in native dress is uneducated—a bushman or a fisherman, be he old or young, chief or commoner—and, despite his years or his rank, to be relegated to the backyard, *unless he is rich*.



KOBINA SEKYI

II.

The intentions of the pioneer missionaries were doubtless good; the intentions of the pioneer African traders may have been good; but that for which they prepared the way cannot be called good. Missionaries and traders have worked in concert to establish "education," that is, education improperly so called, and thus in the end almost succeeded in breaking up the social life of the people among whom they moved: the former destroyed the ultimate religious sanctions which regulated their civil life, and the latter opened up new vistas and afforded new examples of duplicity and cunning. Thus, when their rigid morality relaxed, the list of possible misdoings was at the same time lengthened. Christianity and trade became the marks of respectability according to the new foreign standard. "Education" was established by Christianity and supported after a time by trade, when it became clear that its objects were to train up missionary assistants and mercantile clerks. The children of respectable but too impressionable artisans—evolvers and conservators of unique indigenous arts and crafts—became "scholars," the fathers of a new generation of foreign-minded natives. The institution of apprenticeship, at first exclusively hereditary in its mode of recruiting, but later

extended outside family limits, began to lose support, till arts and crafts were left in the hands of the few, on whose death they would become extinct. Wealthy native traders sent their children to Europe to be trained on European lines, a few of the latter embracing European professions—law, medicine, engineering. As the native traders thrived, so trade and the missions flourished, their disruptive influence on native institutions increasing concomitantly.

Mission and trade "education" produced clerks, many of whom grew up to be wealthy traders. Some of these clerks who were cadets of noble families had a great deal of influence. Contentions between tribes and the diplomacy of the new "educated" class led to agreements and treaties with European mercantile and subsequently Government officials. Thus the knell of the native States began to be tolled.

But "education" flourished. Some splendid men were produced, men of remarkable intellectual powers, the equals, and often the superiors, of those who taught them; but the native point of view was ceasing to be. Things native began to be regarded as savage by the natives themselves. The Mission Schools, now subsidised by the Government, together with the newer Government Schools, disseminated "education." All classes sent their children to the schools to be "educated." The insignia of "education," European clothing, European habits of life and thought, began to settle in the land, each succeeding generation being more Europeanised than the preceding.

The "educated," becoming so thoroughly European, must sooner or later adopt the European attitude towards Governments. The proceedings of the Legislative Councils were often criticised: the native press was a true child of the European press, inheriting the main characteristic of its parent, namely, freedom of speech. But so long as the "educated" native played into the hands of his teachers by his deficient grasp of the implications of European commercial organisation, he was considered a harmless imitator, taking a penny where the European took a pound. So long as he aided in the weakening of his own native State by his growing lack of respect for the authority of his natural rulers and his growing neglect of native institutions he was congratulated upon his progressiveness. Where, however, the native State ensured more safety of property, these promising pupils of Europe desired the *status quo ante* to be undisturbed by colonial legislation. In the meantime a policy of exclusion from the Civil Service, pursued against competent professional natives, compelled prudent fathers to send their sons to study law. A few studied medicine, and made their marks as private practitioners; fewer still became engineers, but these were the most unfortunate of all. The lawyer class, the most influential and prosperous of the professionals, was being constantly recruited. From the first it included serious-minded young men; and of these those who had used their faculties of observation when in Europe strove to revive the native point of view. They, together with others of their calibre, sought to protect the masses—the unsuspecting, unlettered natives and the impulsive "educated" native—from measures which, if not meant to be dangerous, might in time become distinctly pernicious. Thus the lawyer class, in particular, and the few really educated

natives, in general, began to be unpopular in official circles, and the cry of "Down with the educated native" was raised.

Thereafter "education" has been much controlled. Officials of "education" there are galore. Government inspection and Government regulation it has even been sought to extend to the secondary schools, which have hitherto been managed entirely by Missions supported by the public, as well as by private gentlemen. A uniform system of "education" has been established in the elementary schools, missionary and government; and, in order to guarantee the desired uniformity, a Government Training College for teachers has been established on the Gold Coast. On the whole, the "education" that is provided now, as well in the elementary or low as in the secondary or high schools, is much worse than it used to be. A result of this degeneration even in the scanty "education" that is given is that the chances of the evolution of the occasional pupil who succeeds in untrammeling his "educated" mind are much less than before.

The Government has kindly given facilities for the studying of agriculture, and has established some sort of technical training. Some, looking with complacency on these possible additions to the accomplishments of their children, have begun to believe that the salvation of the country lies in technical training. Accordingly appeals are constantly being made to the Government to establish technological institutes; or, failing that, they would advocate the maintenance, by the public, of technological schools under the direction of competent American negroes. A few wise heads have retorted that technical training by itself would be a form of "education," whilst it is education—the real thing, comprehensive and sound—that is wanted.

III.

So far we have been following the advance of "education." Let us now briefly consider education. Education is nothing more nor less than the training of the young to become worthy members of the community in which they live; it is the training, that is, of the young to maintain the traditions of their elders or ancestors, not by keeping them in a state of rigid conservation, but by reacting to previously unknown combinations of circumstances in the spirit of those traditions. Education, therefore, is a species of the genus training; education, then, is a form of training; but a form of training need not be education. Accordingly, in considering whether any form or mode of training is or is not education one has to bear in mind the object of that form or mode of training.

Now, the object of the system of training of the young that has been established in British West Africa is undoubtedly that of making the young who are trained worthy members of the British West African community. When, however, we come to inquire closely into the conception of worth that is made the standard, we find there are two distinct views: the view of the European Imperialist and the view of the native African. The former considers worth to consist in amenability to Imperialistic regulation or control; the latter considers worth to consist in love for his country and in solicitude for its welfare. The European Imperialist, be he missionary or merchant or Govern-

ment official, regards the native African as a means to the end of Imperial expansion. He tends, therefore, to treat the latter as some sort of automaton, to be bandied here and there, to be turned this way and that, according to the whim of the overseer. The native African, on the other hand, naturally regards himself as an end in himself, in the sense in which a member of any community is an end in himself. He is a sentient being living in states of his own before he ever heard of Europe. He had his institutions and his own mode of training up his children to become efficient members of his community. Thus the native African, before Europe came into contact with him, understood education and gave it to his young. What is required now is not the establishment of a new system of training that regards the native system of education as no education at all, but the expansion of that native system of education so as to equip the young native to react in the traditional manner to the previously unknown circumstances of contact with Europe, a circumstance which has all but completely changed their environment.

The native African, having come into contact with trade in its most insidiously aggressive form, has not yet learnt to react properly to the change in his environment, because it is a change that wormed itself, so to speak, into his life. Instead of modifying that trade to suit his ways he has permitted the trade to mould him. The native African is at heart a simple agriculturist, in whose life trade should play the part it should play in all properly balanced communities, the part, namely, of supplying wants, and not of creating new wants and ministering to them. There is no reason (except that of force) why he should embrace and develop the idea of trade as Europe has civilised it. But there is at least one reason why he should *not* develop the European idea of trade. The reason, namely, that if he does he must necessarily pervert his nature in order to succeed; wherefore it would follow that if he is to develop trade along European lines there is to be no national development for him. The national development of the native African requires him to remain African in life and thought, and in order to do so he must learn to detect the true nature of the change in his environment in order that he may educate and not "educate" his children.

Already we are beginning to understand that change. How are we to educate our children so that they may properly react to it? We have already traced the system of training which Europe has established in Africa for her own ends. If we endorse that system we must keep in view the nature of the end to which it will lead. The European ideal is trade; and to trade Europe subjects all things: Science, Art, Diplomacy, War, Religion, Government, National Development. The resulting complex is Imperialism, which contains in itself a most disruptive influence. It first of all centralises, enfeebling, in that act, the self-dependence, the self-reliance of the nations thus connected with one centre. Then, when the inevitable social corruption occurs in that centre, it travels, along the lines of connection, into the several societies connected. That corruption is inevitable because Imperialism demands the relation, in the strictest sense, of ruling class and subject peoples; it demands privilege for the one and prescribes diminution of rights for the other. Hence

there comes to be a juxtaposition of surfeit and want: the former involves luxury and leads to mental and moral stagnation; the latter involves misery and leads to exaggerated emotional reaction.

Keeping in view these possibilities, which are being at the present moment realised all over the world, we must study carefully the ways of avoiding them. Our children must be taught to read and write, without a doubt; but they must also be taught to think. They must study science and its application in the arts and crafts; but neither the one nor the other is to be subordinated to the ends of trade. They require first to be proud of themselves, of their nation, of their race. The foundation of stability is self-respect—individual, national, racial. We can never respect ourselves while we borrow our point of view and our method from another race. Whatever we do, we must bear in mind that our end is national development as a means to racial unity. If the other races develop along those lines in the end there is sure to be a spontaneous human unity. There are higher unities above that: each belongs to its own time.

MISS BRENDA FRANCKLYN

AND THE INDIAN MUSLIM SOLDIERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS WAR FUND.

For the purpose of raising funds for the war relief represented by the Chicago Allied Bazaar, Miss Francklyn made a special trip to France, and through the assistance of the British Ambassador and the co-operation of Madame Joffre obtained this miniature, which she has given to the Allied Bazaar.

Believing that this miniature should remain in Chicago, the management will present it to the Art Institute of Chicago at the conclusion of the bazaar. In place of the funds that might have been realised from the sale of this miniature, and as a sign of appreciation of General Joffre and a token of the debt America owes to France, subscriptions are being solicited to a fund to be known as the General Joffre Fund. This fund will be distributed to the war reliefs represented by the several booths securing the subscriptions.

The miniature will be presented to the Art Institute as the gift of the subscribers to the General Joffre Fund. To Mr. Duse Mohamed,

158, Fleet-street, London.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed draft is being sent to you at my request by the Committee of the Allied Bazaar, held in Chicago, January 10th—20th.

The miniature of Maréchal Joffre, which I was enabled to paint, owing to the courtesy of Madame Joffre and the British Ambassador in Paris, has been sold here for a large sum to help the Allied charities, and I am glad that a portion of the fund raised should go to the relief of the widows and orphans of our brave comrades from the Indian Empire, especially as India

was the land of my birth, although I am an English-woman.

I sincerely hope that your efforts to raise the £10,000 you hoped for has been successful.

I am, yours faithfully,

(Signed) BRENDA FRANCKLYN.
The Virginia Hotel, Chicago, Ills., U.S.A.

February 29, 1917.

Last April the hon. secretary of the Indian Muslim Soldiers' Widows and Orphans War Fund received the circular quoted above and the miniature of General Joffre, together with a letter and a draft for £210 2s. from the secretary of the committee of the Allied Bazaar, Chicago, with Miss Francklyn's letter enclosed.

We were in the act of closing down the fund when this timely draft arrived, which enabled us to arrange,



THE MARECHAL JOFFRE MINIATURE.

with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, for our bankers to forward a final sum of £420 to the Hon. Rájah Sir Mohamed Ali Mohamed, Lucknow, India, for distribution.

We regret that the £10,000 we set out to raise did not materialise; none the less, we thank Miss Francklyn for her generous wish and her yet more generous help to a deserving cause. The kind thoughtfulness of Miss Francklyn for the widows and orphans of the land of her birth cannot be too highly estimated, and we feel certain that, not only our co-religionists, but all those who appreciate the high-souled action of Miss Francklyn will join us in praying for her earthly success, and that all the joys of heaven may be hers when the All-Merciful shall see fit to take her to Himself and say, "Well done!"

Civilisation is surely advancing, although its progress may sometimes seem slow. African traders, who used to supply Uganda with rum, calico, brass wire, and beads, are now doing a roaring trade in wrist-watches.—"Youths' Companion."



MISS KATE DAY.
("BETH.")

As I was idly watching the crowd pass up and down Hyde Park the other day some vague memory of my childhood arose and seemed to centre around the figures moving slowly up and down. What was it? Suddenly it dawned upon me, every one of those trim, well-clad women were replicas of our old friend Mrs. Noah, of the Ark, come to life. With their high hats with the narrow straight brim, their stiff short coat-frocks without any waist, they were each of them a 1917 Mrs. Noah, and you could easily conjure up the Ark and the conventional clipped pointed trees in the background. She had left all the animals behind, and was out for a promenade, with her bottle-green coat frock with the girdle and the three little wooden buttons down the front, and her little hat and her tall high stick, though in this case it was mostly an en-tout-cas. To think that in this great city, we should ever see hundreds of Mrs. Noahs strolling about, the exact replica, with the exception of the feet!—for if I remember rightly she always stood firmly planted on a green wooden pedestal finished with a round platform, which eventually was broken by too much hugging on the part of one of her admirers. Whilst the new Mrs. Noah, even the tired waitress filling her lungs with fresh air after her day's work, would not appear in public without elaborate suede, patent or fabric shoes, with silk stockings. I remember one of the "Woundies" back from the Eastern campaign

(Our Fashion Editress will be pleased to buy materials, to choose paper patterns suitable to them, and to give advice on all matters connected with clothes, through the medium of our African and Oriental Bureau, 158, Fleet Street, London, England.)

asking me if some generous firm had been giving every girl in England silk stockings free, for he said the first sight that caught his eye was silk stockings on every hand, not literally on the hand, of course! That is one of the results of war-wages. It has always been a source of horror and amusement to our continental sisters to see the footgear of the Englishwoman; but they should see her now that she has the money to buy what she really fancies and not what she must!

Whilst I am on the subject of footgear, I think I will go more fully into it, for truly it is in her shoes that the woman of to-day shows whether she is "en fete" or in working trim, for no one has many dresses, but if you want to be really smart you wear pale grey suede shoes with a costume of the same colour, or biscuit shoes with a shantung dress. This little touch makes or mars the appearance of the chic woman, and, of course, coloured stockings are, in these days of bad black dyes, very much nicer than the old black ones, unless you are the lucky possessor of some pre-war pairs. If you cannot afford so many different shoes—and they certainly are a dreadful price—one very nice pair of tete de negre shoes (stockings to match) are about the smartest thing that can be worn at this moment. Just a word or two about the advantages of suede shoes. Firstly, they are extremely comfortable and can be worn for a long walk straight off; and secondly, they require practically no cleaning, just a whisk with a stiff brush, an occasional rub with sand paper if the skin has become polished in any place, and that is all that is required. They, in common with all shoes—though it certainly does apply more especially to them on account of the softness of the leather—should always be kept on boot trees. They will then last twice as long—keep in shape to the very last day—as if you neglect this simple precaution. Light boot trees can be obtained very

cheaply, and can, of course, be kept from one pair of shoes to another, so that once the purchase is made you have no further outlay.

Holiday time is approaching, and we naturally all begin to think about our wardrobes, for those of us who have abstained from such luxuries as holidays since the outbreak of war feel that this year it is a necessity, after all the strain and worry of the past three years.

The railway companies have—unintentionally—very much simplified the problem by announcing that everyone must be prepared to carry all her own luggage, so that a fair-sized bag will be all that one will be able to take. What most people seem to have decided upon is a good costume, a couple of voile dresses, a collapsible white felt hat, the necessary underclothing, and of course the inevitable sports coat. I think that this garment has obtained the most favoured and secure position in the hearts of the feminine world of to-day. I remember the first one I had was a good old stodgy heather wool, suitable only for the golf links, and a very different garment to the clinging, silky, delicate wrap that one sees on every occasion, indoors or out, winter or summer. In offices it shares the honours with the "munition overall," and no one can deny that our dull old banks look considerably more cheerful for the presence of the rose, yellow, blue, green, and other subtle colours that our manufacturers provide for the delight of woman. It has been my pleasure lately to be making arrangements about purchasing them, and I have been in the midst of hundreds of them, stacked from floor to ceiling, and they so entranced me, that I have been informed that "I have got sports coats on the brain."

Even our blouses cannot keep from imitating them, for what is a jumper blouse but a variety of the sports coat? I don't think many people would like to decide off hand to which group the charming crepe de chine models, so much worn this year, belong.

No article at this period would be complete without a reference to two of the most important happenings of the past four weeks, Votes for Women and National Baby Week. For the women of the British Isles these are the most important events for three centuries, and although the Baby Week was not arranged by any suffragette party, nearly all the workers were keen suffragettes, and it must be a blow to all the anti-suffragists to find that the first concerted action of women, after obtaining the vote that was to "unsex them and ruin them for their natural work of motherhood," is to try and obtain some legislation for infant welfare and the saving of child life. It seems necessary when under male administration 50,000 babies die yearly under the age of twelve months; and in 1915 it was more dangerous to be a baby in the United Kingdom than a soldier in the trenches, the deaths being in the proportion of 12 to 9 per hour! It was my privilege to hear Dr. Mary Scharlieb, one of the first, if not the first woman doctor, and still a much-sought authority on many medical subjects, who in her early life was a resident in India, speak on the subject of infant welfare; and the whole burden of her speech was: "Feed your child yourself, do not use these artificial foods which apparently save so much trouble." I do not imagine that this applies so strongly to my readers, as to the mothers in this country, but as I know that with the benefits of civilisation the evils creep in too, and that there is a growing demand from abroad for these artificial foods, I repeat her warning. As an illustration, she mentioned an experiment that had occurred quite naturally in Shoreditch, where the inhabitants were divided into three colonies, Jewish, Irish, and English, all of them living in the same air and under the same conditions. The Jewish had the largest number of babies surviving the first year, because their babies are always breast-fed, the Irish next because more than half are breast fed, and I am sorry to say the English are a bad third, because they will believe that the products of the chemical manufacturer are better than what is supplied for the nurture of man. Dr. Scharlieb con-

cluded with this warning: "Your child has twice as much chance of life if it is breast-fed as if it is artificially fed."

I was spending the week-end in one of the Eastern counties, and had just reached this point, when I heard the sound of the anti-aircraft guns rather too vigorously to be mere practice, and looking up saw a squadron of enemy aircraft heading directly for the garden where I sat. Calling out a warning to all the others, I hastily retired to the cellar with a candle, book, chair, and pencil to continue, and as I descended I echoed the words of the psalmist, and understood what must have been his feelings when he wrote the words: "Let them be driven backward and put to confusion that wish me evil!"

After a jolly half hour or so in the cellar we came above ground, and I must say that I am extremely grateful that I am not compelled to live in one, as one hears some unfortunates have to do.

STAINLESS KNIVES.

As I presume that my readers are all women, and as women have either to do the house work, or else see that it is done, I wish to draw your attention to an advertisement appearing on another page with reference to stainless knives. These knives are *really good*, we have used them in our household for two years, and it is perfectly true that all that it is necessary to do to them is just to wash them in warm water and they are ready for use again immediately. We have only the cheese knives of this make, our dinner knives being of the old ordinary steel; and it is a striking coincidence the manner in which the cheese knives appear on the table, at times and places when they are most unsuitable, and I think this speaks for itself!

I must admit, that in the spring, when we were without a maid, and it was my painful duty to assist in the housework, I found that I was catching the same complaint and finding it very difficult to know when a dinner knife was wanted and when a cheese; I was convinced nearly always that it was a cheese!

There is only one drawback of any sort, which, perhaps, is not really a drawback, and that is, that as they are never cleaned by machine or board, they do not wear thin and so

become as sharp as the old-fashioned knife; but a turn on the knife-sharpener once in three months is much less trouble than a turn in the machine after every time of use.

We bottle about three hundred pounds of fruit every season, and to prepare this fruit, instead of the old-fashioned silver knife, we always use the stainless, and I can guarantee that the fruit does not become blackened nor does the knife, any more than if it had only cut bread!

LINGERIE DRESSES.

Lingerie dresses are still the only things that count, and the washing georgette is still more to the fore than earlier in the season, the majority of the models being made in the delicate colourings of French grey, or pale blue trimmed with pink or vice versa. The combination of these two colours in almost every garment has been one of the most striking features of the season.

BETH.

RED CROSS AERIAL POST IN EGYPT.

The war organisation of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John is most up to date, as is indicated by the following extract from a summary of work in Egypt which has reached the headquarters of the Joint War Committee, of 83, Pall Mall: "It is interesting to note that Red Cross stores and comforts are now being delivered by aerial service. An aeroplane leaves a certain point in the Canal zone daily and carries such Red Cross comforts as fans, fly whisks, chocolate, gramophones, etc., to outlying medical units in the desert."

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INDIAN BANKING PROFITS.

India has done so much to help Great Britain, both in a military and a financial sense, since the outbreak of the war, that every sign of prosperity which she may exhibit will be heartily welcomed. In this connection the results shown by her leading banking companies will not be without interest. A recent issue of the "Morning Post," referring to the Mercantile Bank of India, says: "As the accounts of other institutions have shown, conditions in India during the past year have been favourable to the banks, and the report of the Mercantile Bank of India fully confirms the impression. For the year ended December 31st last the profit amounted to £133,374, as compared with £100,328 in the preceding twelve months, and, with the balance brought forward, the available total is £164,676. The sum of £50,000 is placed to reserve and £5,000 is added to officers' pension fund, both allocations being of the same amount as last year, while £10,000 is written off premises, against £5,000. A final dividend of 7 per cent. is recommended on both the 'A' and 'B' shares, making 12 per cent. for the year, as compared with 10 per cent. in 1915, and £32,176 is carried forward, against £31,302. The balance-sheet shows a general expansion, deposits amounting to £8,558,582, as compared with £6,413,313 a year ago, against which the cash has increased from £1,357,763 to £1,968,348, bills receivable and loans and advances being also substantially higher." No little satisfaction is to be derived from this state of affairs. There is, however, one section of the Indian community to which our sympathies are extended; we refer to the coffee planters, who are likely to be hard hit by the restriction of shipping facilities. On this topic the "Financier and Bullionist" remarks: "Amongst the valuable industrial 'side shows' of the Britannic economic system only brought into public notice since the war the British Empire Producers' Organisation calls attention to the position of the coffee growers of Southern India, who were at once threatened with ruin by the prohibi-

tion of coffee imports into the United Kingdom. This year's crop is a good one after two lean years, and just as the planters were hoping to make up for bad times the decree was issued which, unless recalled, will make this season's production entirely wasted. South Indian coffee is a small crop of special quality, practically all consumed in the United Kingdom."

COTTON BOOM IN UGANDA.

There never was such feverish activity in the Protectorate over cotton as exists at present (writes the Kampala correspondent of the "Leader of B.E.A.," Nairobi). Buyers are falling over each other in their anxiety to purchase, and the result is, of course, that the price of cotton has soared up to unheard-of prices. Rs. 14.50 and Rs. 16 per 100 lb. is being paid in Kampala at the present time. Of course, it must be remembered that the present unprecedented figure for cotton at home possibly warrants this purchase price of the raw material, but if the ginners and buyers generally could only have come to some amicable arrangement as to a settled reasonable sum—well, so much the better for them personally. As it is they can afford to pay for it, and to a certain extent this is all the better for the trade of the country. But there is a great outcry against the system of markets established by the authorities. It is contended that the system of establishing markets in certain localities is mainly responsible for the extraordinary rise in the price of labour transport. A market is established, say, twenty miles from Kampala in the centre of a district round which for maybe a radius of twenty or thirty miles there is a fair amount of cotton in the ground. The native who grows the cotton takes his produce to this market, sells it and goes home. These markets are not placed in the vicinity of towns or trading places. The native receives his money, and, not being just then in a position to purchase trade goods, goes to his shamba and sits down and probably spends the money in a worse than useless manner. If the native, on the other hand, had to bring his cot-

ton to Kampala or Jinja, where the gineries are established, he would have an opportunity of spending at least a part of his money in the towns, and he would be all the better for the exchange.

LIBERIAN RUBBER.

A GOOD PROSPECT.

"The African World" says:—Presiding at the meeting of the Liberian Rubber Corporation, Limited, last month, Sir J. D. Rees said that the year's working had resulted in a net profit of £2,783, and, after deducting the previous loss on wild rubber trading—an unhappy inheritance from the past—the profit and loss account showed a credit balance of £541 to be carried forward. The value of the stock of rubber in transit and in hand appeared large in comparison with that of the total output for the year; but, owing to Liberia's climatic conditions, the last four months of the year yielded the major of the total year's output, and, owing to the war, freights from Liberia had been very difficult to get and very irregular when got. The greater part of the stock in hand had been sold at and above valuation price. The output of dry rubber had been 51,048 lb., an increase of 34,035 lb. over that for the previous year. The gross receipts per pound had been 2s. 8.2d., and the net receipts, after deducting cost of transport, etc., had amounted to 2s. 5.28d. per lb. The cost of production f.o.b. port of shipment (excluding export royalty payable to the Liberian Government) had been 1s. 4.43d. per lb. of rubber, and the all-in cost 1s. 8.31d. per lb. The highest price realised for the company's sheet rubber during 1916 had been 4s. 1½d. per lb., and the lowest price 2s. 3d. per lb. The total number of trees on the plantation was approximately 150,000, but these would be gradually thinned out in course of time. Tapping had taken place on 303 days in the year, which, after deducting Sundays and Christmas Day, left only ten week days on which, owing to heavy rains, tapping had been impossible, though during a certain proportion of days during the rainy

reason operations had been restricted owing to the weather. It was difficult to estimate the total output for the current year, in view of the uncertainty of labour conditions. At the present time there was a shortage of labour, but he hoped the situation would improve.

TRADE OF UGANDA IN 1916.

The following information respecting trade in Uganda in 1916 is taken from the annual report of the Committee of the Uganda Chamber of Commerce:—

Imports.—The total value of imports into the Uganda Protectorate during the year 1916 amounted to £654,027, as compared with £458,045 in 1915. The chief classes of goods imported in 1916 were: Cotton goods, £300,950; provisions, £21,769; soap, £19,507; tobacco, £17,926; machinery, £14,684; and motor cycles and accessories, £21,219.

Bazaar Trade.—Bazaar trade in 1916 was satisfactory on the whole. During the first seven months of the year goods sold readily at advancing prices, but a shortage of supplies was felt, due to shipping difficulties and congestion of traffic at coast ports and on the railways. Later on, however, this state of affairs was reversed, as the increased prices that had been realised had to some extent encouraged over-trading, and accumulations of goods that had been held up arrived at the same time.

It is expected that with the gradual development of the territory, known as "German East Africa," together with the bright prospects for the 1917 cotton season, and improved transport facilities from the coast to Uganda, there will be a better demand for goods. Credit has been well maintained on the reduced basis mentioned in last year's report, with the result that bazaar trade is now on an altogether sounder basis than in pre-war times.

Exports.—The total value of exports from the Uganda Protectorate in 1916 amounted to £481,579, against £418,010 in 1915.

Coffee.—The total value of coffee exported during 1916 was double that of the previous year, the respective figures being £114,804 and £55,350. New plantations came into bearing, and there was an increased yield on the older planta-

tions. New areas are being planted with the Bourbon variety, as it is in greater demand and realises higher prices than the Nyasaland varieties formerly grown.

Rubber.—Exports of rubber increased in value from £3,159 in 1915 to £5,734 in 1916. Most of the Para rubber areas are still young, but it is hoped to increase exports considerably during the next few years.

Hides.—Shipments in 1916 showed a decrease in value when compared with 1915, the respective figures being £48,739, against £64,875. This decrease was principally due to transport difficulties, which kept the market stagnant for several months. Towards the end of the year, however, the market assumed a better tone.

Goat Skins.—Exports of these articles declined in value from £18,418 in 1915 to £16,413 in 1916, but directly shipping arrangements become more normal an improvement is looked for, there being a keen demand from America, with good prices.

Cotton.—Exports of ginned cotton in 1916 amounted to 80,564 cwt., valued at £331,436, as compared with 85,232 cwt., valued at £209,230, in 1915. Only 32 cwt. of unginned cotton were exported in 1916, as compared with 8,465 cwt. in the previous year. The area under cotton decreased by 26,651 acres. The quality of the crop was up to the average, and as the cotton was ginned to a greater extent in the producing areas, complaints on the score of stained cotton were much less frequent. There was considerable delay in shipment, but the market was practically cleared by the end of the year.

SUDAN IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works in Egypt, and Colonel E. E. Bernard, Financial Adviser to the Sudan Government, are visiting London in connection with conferences which are being held here with regard to the future of the irrigation schemes, projected before the war, in Egypt and the Sudan.

"We are inclined to believe," writes "The Times," "that one of the results of the war may be to make some alteration in the finan-

cial basis for these schemes, if not in the schemes themselves. But in any case, it is, no doubt, highly desirable that the Home Government should be in possession of the full facts of the situation, and of the requirements in both countries, in order that there may be as little delay as possible when the moment arrives at which these important works can be proceeded with. It will be remembered that before the war it was arranged that a large loan should be raised by Egypt and the Sudan for the purpose, assisted by a British Government guarantee of the interest at 5 per cent. But in the altered conditions it seems improbable that these terms would hold good, and it may be preferable to consider whether the financing of these particular schemes should not be included in the new programme of Imperial Development which will be pressed on the British Government from different quarters of the Empire after the war."

BRITISH INDUSTRIAL DIRECTORY.

The Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade is compiling an index or directory of British and Irish manufacturers, which it is proposed to forward to Consular Officers, Trade Commissioners, and other correspondents of the Board of Trade abroad for use in dealing with inquiries which they may receive for British and Irish goods, both now and for delivery after the war. A large number of firms have already supplied information as to their products to the Department, but before transmitting this information abroad it is desired to furnish to all manufacturers in the United Kingdom interested in the export trade an opportunity of applying for the inclusion of their names in this index. The Department is now compiling the sections of the index dealing with the following trades:—

1. Boot and shoe.
2. Leather and leather goods.
3. Wearing apparel.
4. Rope, twine, and net trades.
5. Haberdashery.
6. Fancy goods.
7. Floor cloths and coverings.

Manufacturers in these trades in the United Kingdom are invited to supply a detailed list of the articles

which they manufacture, a list of the markets abroad in which they are more particularly interested, particulars of their agents abroad, their terms of business, and, generally, any information which would be of use in dealing adequately with inquiries from persons desirous of purchasing goods from the United Kingdom. Those who desire to apply for the inclusion of their names in this index should forward particulars to the Board of Trade Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall-street, E.C.2. Envelopes should be marked "Index."

ITALIAN TRADE WITH EGYPT.

The Italian colony is somewhat disturbed at the interruption of direct navigation between Egypt and Italy, writes the "Egyptian Gazette." The Alexandrian section of the Italian Colonial Institute has sent a letter to its parent society at Rome to the effect that if this state of things is prolonged it will have disastrous consequences, and making two suggestions as palliatives. Numbers of boats of the

Ellerman, Prince, Papayanni, and Moss Lines enter our ports from Liverpool, London, Glasgow, and Hull, touching at Gibraltar and Malta. Most of them enter the port of Alexandria.

"Could not the Italian and British Governments arrange for one or two boats, even of small tonnage, to call at an Italian port, or a Malta-Genoa, Malta, Leghorn, or Malta-Naples service could be quickly established."

THE COLONIAL BANK.

Mr. E. Hyslop Bell, the energetic joint general manager of the Colonial Bank, has just completed a successful tour in West Africa.

Large branches have been established at Lagos and at Accra. Smaller branches are also to be found at Kano, Jos, Secondee, and Port Harcourt. Arrangements are being made to establish branches in every West African centre of commerce. To meet the requirement of West African merchants and traders, in addition to the head office at 16, Bishopsgate, further English branches are now estab-

lished at 21, York-street, Manchester, and 25, Castle-street, Liverpool.

Already our readers, who have taken our advice, have reaped the benefit of this reliable banking concern. Those readers who know we have their interests at heart, and have not already done so, must support this banking institution, which desires a fair field and no favour, and they may be assured of receiving every legitimate help when they can show themselves to be engaged in serious business.

AMERICAN TRADE IN ADEN.

The total exports invoiced at the American Consulate at Aden, Arabia, for the United States increased in value from £154,675 for the first three months of 1916 to £245,610 for the corresponding period this year. This gain was due to the greater shipments of skins, increasing in value from £99,780 to £242,510. The American purchases of coffee, however, decreased from £51,959 for the first quarter of 1916 to £1,478 for the corresponding period this year.

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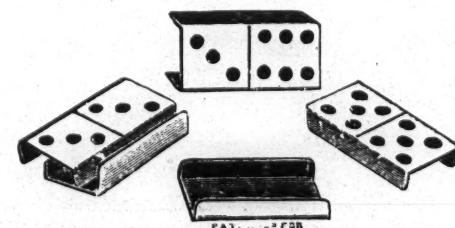
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